

Message Text

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42

ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 IO-14 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20

USIA-15 DRC-01 /110 W

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P R 251740Z MAY 74

FM AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 8712

INFO US MISSION GENEVA 395

US MISSION USUN NEW YORK 808

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SANTIAGO 2954

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: CI, PINT, SOCI, OVIP

SUBJECT: VISIT OF RAMSEY CLARK AND WILLIAM BOOTH

1. SUMMARY: CLARK/BOOTH VISIT TO SANTIAGO MAY 20-25
WENT WITHOUT UNTOWARD INCIDENT. VISITORS WERE ABLE TO OBSERVE
TRIALS OF DETAINEES. END SUMMARY.

2. FORMER ATTORNEY GENERAL RAMSEY CLARK AND NEW YORK
CITY CRIMINAL COURT JUDGE WILLIAM BOOTH, BY THEIR ACCOUNT
ACTING ONLY AS PRIVATE CITIZENS, WERE CONCERNED WITH GENERAL
PROTECTION OF HUMAN RIGHTS IN CHILE AND SPECIFICALLY PROCEDURES
AND SAFEGUARDS FOR DEFENDANTS IN TRIALS BEFORE MILITARY
TRIBUNALS. THEY VISITED EACH TRIAL MORNINGS OF MAY 22,
23, AND 24. EMBOFFS WHO ALSO PRESENT SERVED AS
TRANSLATORS.

3. AFTER SOME INITIAL DELAY (SANTIAGO 2790), CLARK AND
BOOTH MET WITH MIN INTERIOR BONILLA MAY 23, AND WERE
HIGHLY PLEASED WITH INTERVIEW. ACCORDING TO CLARK,
BONILLA STRONGLY IMPLIED THAT, ALTHOUGH SOME DEATH
SENTENCES MAY BE IMPOSED BY ONE OR ANOTHER TRIBUNAL, IT
IS HIGHLY UNLIKELY THEY WILL ACTUALLY BE CARRIED OUT.

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BONILLA FLATLY DENIED CLARK'S REQUEST TO SEE

ORLANDO LETELIER, STATING SUCH A VISIT WOULD BE "IMPROPER" SINCE NO CHARGES HAVE BEEN PLACED AGAINST HIM OR OTHER MEMBERS OF DAWSON ISLAND GROUP AND SINCE PREVIOUS VISITORS TO DAWSON GROUP HAD SUBSEQUENTLY "DISTORTED" THEIR SITUATION IN PUBLIC STATEMENTS. WITH BONILLA'S WRITTEN AUTHORIZATION, HOWEVER, CLARK AND BOOTH DID VISIT SANTIAGO PUBLIC JAIL, WHERE THEY TALKED PRIVATELY WITH AT LEAST FOUR OF MAJOR FACH TRIAL DEFENDANTS: CAPTS. VERGARA, CARBACHO, SILVA, AND DONOSO. CLARK LATER COMMENTED TO EMBOFF THAT PRISONERS' PHYSICAL AND MENTAL HEALTH WAS GOOD AND THAT THEY WERE RECEIVING ADEQUATE IF SPARTAN TREATMENT.

4. CLARK AND BOOTH ALSO HELD NUMEROUS PRIVATE MEETINGS. WE ARE AWARE OF SESSIONS WITH MRS. ORLANDO LETELIER AND HER LAWYER, MRS. ERICH SCHNAKE AND MRS. ALEJANDO JILIBERTO, A SANTIAGO COURT OF APPEALS JUDGE, AND AT LEAST TWO PROMINENT CHILEAN DEFENSE LAWYERS. DANISH CHARGE BRIEFED THEM ON REFUGEE/ASYLEE SITUATION AND SAID DANISH EMBASSY HAD COMPILED TESTIMONY FROM SOME 400 CHILEAN APPLICANTS FOR REFUGE IN DENMARK CONCERNING GOC ARREST AND INTER-ROGATION PRACTICES, INCLUDING TORTURE. CLARK AND BOOTH PAID COURTESY CALL AMB MAY 20 AND SAW HIM AGAIN ON MAY 22 TO REQUEST MY ASSISTANCE IN ARRANGING APPOINTMENTS WITH GOC OFFICIALS, WHICH WE PROVIDED.

5. CLARK AND BOOTH DEPARTED SANTIAGO MORNING MAY 25. THEY SPECIFICALLY THANKED EMBASSY FOR ITS HELP AND REPEATEDLY STATED THAT THEY WERE PLEASED WITH RESULTS OF THEIR VISIT.

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